Rt. 12. Frederick, Md. 21701
2/12/77

Ms. Rita M. Foley
Executive Producer, Empathy
WMDC
8800 Brookville Road
Silver Spring, Md. 20910

Dear Ms. Foley,

It took so long for the Lane tapes to reach here I'm certain I cannot be ready to respond by the 17th or 18th, as I'd hoped.

You did not send them when promised and then sent them and your letter 4th class, which is slow. You also sent the tapes in the form I cannot use, not on cassettes as I asked. This means I'll have to see if I can pay the local radio station to dub cassettes from them before I can do anything. This means further delay, this being a weekend, and added cost if they are willing. It might be much faster if when you receive this you send cassettes as I asked. You know most of us are not equipped as radio stations are.

You say "I cannot assign you a firm date until we discuss the specifics over the phone." I do not know what this means but I do assume you will offer me exactly what you provided Lane. This quite obviously did not include prior restraint or censorship or the use of the whiteout switch when he was defamatory, from what those who heard the show have told me.

Please let me know what you mean by "specifics." I am generally home, where my office is. The phone is 301/473-8166.

What I would like to do, if it is within my limitations, is dub out some of Lane's statement, play them and respond. In this way there will be no question of accurate quotation. It would be more than I could do to try this with all. I'd make notes of the others when I can hear the tapes. I'd like to do this with all but I am without help and without special equipment. However, if you think using his voice would make a better show my Sony TC 55 has a counter and with a cassettes I could give you the footage. If you'd prefer no dubs, I'll save myself that time but I do think it would make for more realism.

Show like this - including this one - are not new to me. I was doing your then Steve Allison more than a decade ago. In all that time there has never been a single request for time to respond, never an accusation of flase or exaggerated representation by me, whether or radio or TV and from coast to coast.

I am told that not only did Lane decline to confront me with me on the phone, which disadvantaged me much, but you then let him go farthur and say I belong in a mental institution. The one basis I know for this is that I abandoned my second book to get Wesley Liebeler, a Warren Commission lawyer, off Lane's back. This was at the request of several of his Hollywood friends. It seems that Liebeler called Lane a liar, Lane said he would sue, and Liebeler rode the airs waves asking Lane when. It never happened, of course. I did silence Liebeler without regard to Lane as liar and Lane filed no suit. One of the shows I then did was Mort ~~Sahl~~ Sahl's. Mort has since written a book in which he reports throwing his old pal Lane out of the house.

In any event, although I believe that giving me the same facilities with the same conditions would meet your obligation, I do suggest that we go farthur - that without his having to ask you you provide Lane a tape of my appearance and th at at a mutually convenient time he and I have a live and unrehearsed confrontation of your show. He has a book due so he should welcome the attention. I would ask that you extend this offer on the air at the end of the show I'm one. And if he refuses, thereafter report that.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg